Upgradation of National Highways in Rajasthan

608. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govrnment have received any representations from the States like Rajasthan for adequate finances and material help in upgrading the National Highways to strengthen road infrastructure in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Maintenance of National Highways

609. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the works undertaken and the number of contracts finalised for constructing, widening and strengthening of National Highways in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh during 1998-99, 1999.2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the names of the approved agencies preparing the estimates of different works for National Highways Authority of India; and

(c) the names of the contractor firms and their approved final bid in relation to the estimated cost advertised for the particular work during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 in the above States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRASNPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) The details of the major works undertaken, contracts finalised with respect to the estimated cost put to tender for constructing, widening and strengthening of National Highways in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya

Pradesh during 1998-99 to 2000-01 is given in Annex I. *(See* Appendix 193, Annexure No. 10).

There is no approved panel of consultants in National Highways Authority of India. The agencies are selected, as and when required through open competitive bidding for preparation of estimates for different works of the Authority.

Four Lanning National Highway-5

610. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to remove traffic congestion in all the National Highways;

(b) whether four lanning work has been initiated for the purpose;

(c) if so, whether such four lanning has started on NH-5;

(d if so, the specific four lanning work started on Khargpur and Chhatrapur portion on NH-5; and

(e) the progress thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has undertaken improvement works such as widening single lane sections to 2 lanes, four lanning existing 2 lane sections, construction of road over bridges, by-passes etc., depending upon traffic needs and availability of funds on various National Highways.

(c) to (e) Contracts for four-lanning of NH-5 from Chennai to Balasore including Chhatrapur and NH-60 between Balasore and Khargpur have been recently awarded and work has commenced under most of the contracts.

Cutting of old trees in West Bengal

611. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of 200 year old trees on Jessore Road linking Kolkata and Dhaka are being cut down in road widening operations;